

## UNIQUE REPORT.

**Witty Points in Insurance Commissioner Wilder's Annual Report—"Wildcats" Scored.**

**TOPEKA, Kan., April 12.**—The twentieth annual insurance report has been received from the State Printer. Commissioner Wilder in his introductory says:

"It has been the providence of nature," said the brain filip, speaking of the oriental cat, "to give to this creature nine lives instead of one." This record was made in the very dawn and infancy of the race of cat. If the history of the Kansas cats in this series of reports seems somewhat long, repetitious and tiresome, the indulgent reader will bear in mind this ancient saw relative to line longevity, and will brace up when he remembers that, although a bogus insurance company has as many lives as a cat, yet it liveth not forever; it may and surely will die when the nine lives are ended; and moreover it can be killed.

The work of clearing the State of fraudulent insurance companies was begun nearly three years ago, and the job is nearly finished. It has been a very unpleasant one. Every company put an end to has had interested friends, persons drawing salaries, to defend it and assail me. They have spared no epithets; nothing that was false and dirty and vile. This was expected and no complaint is made. The danger was in making the burden to the department greater than it could bear and thus breaking it down. The months have passed, calumny and bribery have done their work, the press and people have sustained the department and the bogus companies are dead.

Every wildcat company in Kansas has been organized by outsiders, by professional insurance crooks and lawbreakers who came here to work this field. The insurance crook is a very sharp man; he knows every trick of the trade. One of his favorite sayings for the past three years has been that the Superintendent didn't know anything about insurance. There was a good deal of truth in this. But technical insurance knowledge was not the great need of Kansas just then. We needed Inspector Byrnes. The crook dresses well and makes a favorable impression. He selects his town and makes the acquaintance of influential men; ropes them into his company far enough to get a charter and organization. But the company consists of these new comers, one or two crooks. They secure the insurance, file to the department and pocket the cash receipts. The honest directors, whose names have been used to secure business, having no control whatever over the company, keep dropping out. The annual meetings are held by the crooks; they elect the officers; they fix their own salaries. Now they have things just as they want them. In their advertising they continue to use the names of good men as their directors; these are also displayed before the Legislature when the crooks are buying votes.

After a lengthy review of events prior and subsequent to the closing of the Topeka and Kansas Home Insurance companies, the Commissioner continues, referring to the officers of those concerns:

"This is a long story to be told of one set of thieves. It is told as a warning. The record is needed in the archives. Kansas has been a safe field for insurance puns. Every variety of fraudulent insurance has revealed here. The tax levied on our people has been a heavy one. The home burns; the destitute owner receives no insurance, although a cash paid for it. The head of the family dies; he has paid for insurance, but his widow and children get nothing. Hanging to trees and lamp posts would be none too severe a punishment for many a rascal who has robbed our people. To meet these men, to listen to their falsehoods, to know their work, may cause the most serene disciple of sweetness and light to lose his serenity, and to make official reports that are wanting in dignity.

Three years of contest with outlaw insurance men and companies are drawing near to a peaceful close. Over the corpses of companies, the dead bodies of presidents and secretaries, the fugitive forms of fleeing frauds making fast time out of our beloved State, one is already able to catch the first bright light of rosy fingered Aurora, daughter of Dawn, as she gladdens the hill-sides along the Missouri, the Marais des Cygnes and Murnation, and joyful promises to bathe every mound and valley of kindly Kansas in the glorious effluence of midday sunlight. Let the glad girl come in! No wild animals remain here to disturb her footsteps; if the chariot turns on the journey, the last spoke in the wheels will be paid for by solvent, authorized companies; companies that have been through Chicago, twice through Boston, through Lynn and Seattle and Spokane and paid every dollar of it. The young woman will hear a happy hat passer hiss as he flies over New York but will not wait to respond to "Assessment No. 117,932." She will save her best sunshine for Kansas, where a trinity of law, Supreme Court and supervision guards the citizen from the alluring hallucination that a one dollar fee pays for a thousand dollar policy—pays it sure and pays it quick.

Charles IX.—and Vitellus before him—made the cold remark: "The body of a dead enemy always smells well." When we call to mind the men, women and children robbed of many thousands by insurance thieves in Kansas, we do not stop to shed tears over the fallen frauds. Nothing so well became them as their departure. Their presence here for many a year has left so many ruined homes that neither laws nor officers will ever permit their return. No pest in human form has so wronged and robbed our State as the insurance fiend. In disaster and in death the dancing devil has been present. One of them testified in court in Topeka last February: "I can get business for a company that has no assets." And he had often done so. He was the president of a Topeka wildcat.

Whelps who have no moral or political character were deeply grieved because last year's report lacked dignity. Byrnes, Hackney, Fuller, Burton, Ormsbee, the whole crowd of insurance ghouls, had their sensibilities shocked by the consciousness of that report. Subsequent events, examinations of companies and suits in court would hint that the truth of the report may have been the chief cause, with this class of persons, of its unpopularity. But dignity is the demand of the disgruntled; let them have it. These persons and their friends in the Legislature were also worried about the archives, the public archives, the archives of Kansas. "Is this undignified report to be permitted to go into the public archives?" surely such an outrage will not be allowed." If archives are "a place wherein all the records are kept in chests and boxes," then Kansas has none. But last year's insurance report is in such archives as Americans have in most of the States of our Union. The remedy for the "lack of dignity" and archive preservation is the improvement of Kansas methods and morals. If unhandsome things are not done they will not be unhandisomely reported and perpetually saved."

### Railroad Man Dead.

**OMAHA, Neb., April 12.**—Phil A. Warlick, assistant general freight agent of the Union Pacific railway, died this morning from pneumonia.

## CHANCELLOR SNOW.

**The Kansas University Fills the Vacant Chair—Other Appointments.**

**LAWRENCE, Kan., April 12.**—After a three days' session the regents of the Kansas State University have settled the question of who should be Chancellor of the institution by electing Prof. F. H. Snow at a salary of \$4,000 per annum—\$1,000 less than they offered Rev. Dr. Thwing, of Minneapolis, Minn. The reason for this reduction is not known.

The selection of Prof. Snow gives universal satisfaction here, and undoubtedly the same feeling exists throughout the State. In the present state of affairs it is undoubtedly the very best thing that can be done for the university. Prof. Snow will honor the institution in the Chancellor's chair as he has honored the professorship of natural history.

For twenty-three years Prof. Snow has occupied the chair of natural science and in this quarter of a century's work he has shown himself to be a thorough, conscientious and indefatigable worker. Outside of his regular duties he has prepared a catalogue of over 600 species of the plants of Kansas, a list of Kansas birds of over 300 species, a list of animals of the State, a list of the fishes of the State and a list of the insects of Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico, and has collections of these in the university museum comprising 200,000 specimens and over 20,000 species. There is no other State in the Union that contains such a vast accumulation—the work of one man. The entire museum collection is valued at nearly \$1,000,000.

The regents after electing Prof. Snow continued the good work by establishing a chair of geology and electing S. W. Williston, of Yale College, a graduate of the Kansas Agricultural College and formerly a Kansas man, to preside over it at a salary of \$1,500 a year.

A chair of mental and moral science was also created, but no one has yet been chosen to fill it.

Prof. C. G. Dunlap was elected full professor of English literature. Gertrude Crotty was chosen assistant professor in geology at a salary of \$500 per annum.

All the optional studies advised by the professors were adopted and ordered placed in the curriculum.

### CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM.

**Report of a Special Committee of Inquiry as to the Operations of the Law.**

**WASHINGTON, April 12.**—In a report made to the executive committee of the National Civil-Service Reform League, the special committee appointed to inquire into the operation of the reform law details the investigation made among members of Congress as to the distribution of patronage and says: "It is not an extravagant estimate to say that more than one-third of the entire time of these Congressmen (time which should properly be devoted to their legislative duties) is consumed in the distribution of offices."

The committee inquired into the extent to which this patronage interfered with the proper performance of legislative duties. It found that in the last Congress a little more than 10 per cent. of the measures introduced passed both houses. Of the 17,078 measures introduced, more than 11,000 never came out of committee and 1,400 of those reported never reached consideration.

The neglect of public business here shown, the committee thinks, is due to the spoils system. The committee commends highly the Lodge bill for the selection of fourth class postmasters by examination.

### SUPREME COURT EVILS.

**California Cut Up Over Legal Delays and Conflicting Decisions.**

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.**—A circular has been issued by the California State Bar Association, which contains an address by ex-Judge Thomas P. Stoney, president, in which he states that a well founded dissatisfaction with the condition of the law and with the administration in this State prevails widely. He says there is a deplorable uncertainty as to what the law is, owing to the want of harmony in the opinions of the Justices composing the Supreme Court and, added to this condition of affairs, there is an intolerable delay in obtaining justice in the ordinary courts of judicial procedure. He declares that if the evils complained of are as serious as they are claimed to be, the only adequate remedy will be in a thorough reorganization of the system by an amendment of the Constitution.

### Corrupt Aldermen.

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., April 12.**—The grand jury is making it extremely warm for Chief Clerk Haney and ten or a dozen of the City Council, and it is said that many indictments are to follow the revelations. It developed that a good many aldermen had stone pavements laid in front of their houses free of charge in consideration that they award contracts to the right party. The tender was not made to them in that barefaced way, but they voted and the streets in front of their houses were paved free.

### Three Men Frightfully Burned.

**BEVERIDGE, N. J., April 12.**—At the Warren factory, Phillipsburg, while the men were running off the molten iron from an immense ladle which had just been filled, by some alleged carelessness it was upset and the contents fell upon the damp ground, causing a terrific explosion. The men were thrown in every direction and three of them were frightfully burned, one fatally. The building was set on fire, but the flames were extinguished with only slight damage. The explosion was heard blocks away.

## DEATH CAME AT LAST.

**Samuel J. Randall, the Honored Son of Pennsylvania, Finally Gives Up the Unusual Struggle with Disease and Passes Away—His Sufferings were Great, but He Kept Up a Manful Fight to the Last—Biographical.**

**WASHINGTON, April 13.**—Congressman Samuel J. Randall died at ten minutes past five o'clock this morning of internal cancer, after a long and painful illness. He was surrounded by his family—his devoted wife and affectionate children—in his last moments. Mr. Randall came to Washington early in last November a sick man, but with hopes of improvement. He expected to be able to take his seat in the House when Congress met in December. But when Congress convened he was unable to leave his home. Subsequently the oath of office as a Representative was administered at his residence by Speaker Reed, and Mr. Randall was made a



Hon. Samuel J. Randall.

member of the committees on rules and appropriations—the two important committees he had served on for so many years. Mr. Randall then hoped to be able to take his seat and participate actively in the affairs of the House at the conclusion of the holiday recess, but the dreaded and fatal malady from which he suffered, slowly but surely made inroads upon his strength, and each month as it passed found him weaker. Mr. Carlisle, his associate on the committee of rules, and Democratic members of the appropriations committee and other Democratic Representatives called frequently at Mr. Randall's home, to consult him about party matters and committee work. Some of them who called occasionally but regularly noticed that Mr. Randall was slowly failing physically, although mentally he was as acute and vigorous as ever; and for the past two months they felt that he would never leave his home alive.

During the last few weeks of his life he suffered very much at times, and he had become greatly emaciated. His devoted wife and children were untiring in their attention all through his sickness, and his friends in Congress (and he had a host of them of both political faiths) contributed much toward his comfort by frequent friendly visits. During his last hours his wife and family were constantly at his bedside. Mr. Randall was unconscious at times during the last day or two of his life, and was speechless toward the end. To Mrs. Randall he smiled a last fond look of recognition a half hour before his death.

### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Samuel Jackson Randall was born in Philadelphia, on October 10, 1823. He came into public life at a very early age as a Democrat, and has never since been retired even temporarily. He served four years in the Common Council of his native city, and one term, 1855-56, in the Pennsylvania Legislature as a State Senator.

Mr. Randall was first elected to Congress in 1862. He commenced his Congressional life in December, 1863, in the Thirty-eighth Congress (in which Hon. James G. Blaine served his first term), only two years after his old friend but political opponent of thirty years standing—the late Wm. D. Kelley—had commenced a career in Congress that lasted nearly thirty years. Mr. Randall was returned at every succeeding election, and at the time of his death had served twenty-six years in Congress, or through thirteen Congresses. He was elected for a fourteenth term, but though he took the oath and qualified as a member, he was not able, because of failing health, to take his seat in the present Congress.

Mr. Randall was a candidate for Speaker of the Forty-fourth Congress, in 1875, but was defeated by Hon. Michael C. Kerr, by whom he was appointed chairman of the committee on appropriations. At the second session of the same Congress Mr. Randall was chosen for Speaker—Mr. Kerr having died during the recess. Mr. Randall was re-elected Speaker in the Forty-fifth Congress by the Democrats in 1877.

By reason of long service and close attention to his duties Mr. Randall became the most expert parliamentarian on the Democratic side of the House. In familiarity with the rules and all branches of parliamentary law, he perhaps had no superior in either party, and as far back as 1875, when the great contest over the Force bill took place at the close of the Forty-third Congress, Mr. Randall was, by common consent, assigned the leadership of the Democratic minority.

**A Plan for Raising a Regiment of Indian Soldiers.**

**WASHINGTON, April 13.**—The Secretary of War has under consideration a plan for raising a regiment in the regular army which will be composed of Indian soldiers with Indians as non-commissioned officers, the commissioned officers to be detailed from the regular army. He has asked the views of the department commanders, and the only objection raised is that it would have the effect of reducing the present regular force of the army. The law now limits the army to 25,000 men, including not to exceed 1,000 Indian scouts. Indian Commissioner Morgan is in favor of this plan, and it is probable that Congress will be asked to make an appropriation for such a regiment.

## A Woman Two Hundred Years Old.

A case is on record of a woman who lived to this advanced age, but it is scarcely necessary to state that it was in "the olden time." Now-a-days too many women do not live half their allotted years. The mortality due to functional derangements in the weaker sex is simply frightful, to say nothing of the indescribable suffering which makes life scarcely worth the living to so many women. But for these sufferers there is a certain relief. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will positively cure leucorrhoea, painful menstruation, prolapsus, pain in the ovaries, weak back; in short, all those complaints to which so many women are martyrs. It is the only guaranteed cure, see guarantee on bottle wrapper.

CLEANSE the liver, stomach, bowels and whole system by using Dr. Pierce's Pellets.

### At a Way-Back Tavern.

Landlord (to newly risen guest)—Slept pretty comfortable, I hope, stranger? Guest—Not very. Head's rather raw from friction with that clam-shell mattress.

Landlord—What! You don't say they warn't no pillar on that bed? Guest—Oh, yes; but I accidentally sneezed in the night and blow it out the key-hole.—Yonkers' Gazette.

### All Sorts and Conditions of Men

Acknowledge the efficacy of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters as a means of extirpating dyspepsia, constipation, malarial and bilious troubles, nervous debility and kidney ailments. The learned and sacred professions, the press, the mercantile, manufacturing, agricultural and mining communities have, for the past thirty years, been furnishing each their quota of testimony in its behalf, until that has reached unwieldy but gratifying proportions, affording unequivocal proof that the public is discerning.

WHEN strong fiber is used paper can be made into a substance so hard that it can be scarcely scratched.

### Consumption Surely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post-office address. Respectfully, T. A. Slocum, M. D., 151 Pearl street, New York.

It does not require legal education to go into the non-law business.—Home Sentinel.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it." How slow we are to believe in what we have not tried. How many times have you read in this paper of Shallenberger's Antidote for Malaria, and instead of testing it, gone to the drug store by mere force of habit for your quinine to simply patch up a trace with disease! The Antidote will cure you. Sold by Druggists.

MANY a beau who wears a sweet-smelling boutonniere is without a cent in his pocket.

### Entitled to the Best.

All are entitled to the best that their money will buy, so every family should have, at once, a bottle of the best family remedy, Syrup of Figs, to cleanse the system when constive or bilious. For sale in 50c and \$1.00 bottles by all leading druggists.

LIFE INSURANCE is a great consolation to the truly good, but fire insurance avails the wicked nothing.—N. Y. Commercial.

I know of a man who was cured of a forty year old sore on his leg by Bull's Sarsaparilla, also a lady that it cured of erysipelas, which doctors failed to benefit.—Joseph D. Andrews, Mitchell Co., Ga.

SOMETIMES the lover who is fired with passion for the daughter is put out by the father.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

COUGHS, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, etc., quickly relieved by BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES. A simple and effectual remedy, superior to all other articles for the same purpose. Sold only in boxes.

It can never be said of the minor that he does not "get down to business"—Yonkers' Gazette.

Six Novels Free, will be sent by Cragin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., to any one in the U. S. or Canada, postage paid, upon receipt of 25 Dobbins' Electric Soap wrappers. See list of novels on circulars around each bar.

The cool poker player never shows a flush on his face.—Binghamton Republican.

ARE unlike all other pills. No purging or pain. Act specially on the liver and bile. Carter's Little Liver Pills. One pill a dose.

The iceman weighs the block and blocks the way simultaneously.—Washington Post.

BEST, easiest to use and cheapest. Piso's Remedy for Catarrh. By druggists. 25c.

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Thad catarrh so bad there were great sores in my nose, one place was eaten through. Two bottles of Ely's Cream Balm did the work. My nose and head are well. C. S. McMillen, Sidney, Mo.

A particle is applied into each nostril and is agreeable. Price 10 cents at druggists; by mail, registered, 25 cents. ELY BROTHERS, 67 Warren St., New York.

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## WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED ANCIENT EDITION.

A so-called "Webster's Unabridged Dictionary" is being offered to the public at a very low price. The body of the book, from A to Z, is a cheap reprint, page for page, of the edition of 1847, which was in its day, a valuable book, but in the progress of language for over FORTY YEARS, has been completely superseded. It is now reproduced, broken type, errors and all, by photo-lithograph process, is printed on cheap paper and flimsily bound. A brief comparison, page by page, between the reprint and the latest and enlarged edition, will show the great superiority of the latter. These reprints are as out of date as a last year's almanac. No honorable dealer will allow the buyer of such to suppose that he is getting the Webster which to-day is accepted as the Standard and THE BEST,—every copy of which bears our imprint as given below.

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If you have occasion to use "Vaseline" in any form be careful to accept only genuine goods put up by us in original packages. A great many druggists are trying to persuade buyers to take Vaseline Preparations put up by them. Never yield to such persuasion, as the article is an imitation without value and will not do good nor give you the result you expect. A two ounce bottle of the Best Vaseline is sold by all druggists at ten cents.

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